



## Linking Girls to the Land

### 2003 Council Grant Summaries

From 2003-2004 23 Girl Scout councils worked with federal natural resource agencies in order to complete a community and council service project or educational opportunity that promotes the preservation of wildlife and natural resources.

	State	Council Name	Project Title	Project Summary	Federal or State Collaborating Agency	Local Collaborating Agencies	Actual # of Girl Scouts Served
1	CA	Girl Scouts of Sierra Cascade	The Lassen Project	The Lassen Project: Over 100 girls and families participated in three camping experiences in Lassen Volcanic National Park. This project increased their outdoor and conservation skills as well as developed appreciation and stewardship for national parks. Participants worked towards earning the Service to America patch through their volunteer work and sent council mailings to publicize the project. Two Senior Girl Scouts became "Interpretive Interns" and helped younger girls complete badge work. These girls are also designing a trail brochure for the park as they work towards earning their Gold Awards.	National Park Service - Lassen Volcanic National Park		165
2	CA	Girl Scouts of Tierra del Oro	Valleys, Vistas, and Visions: Discover Yosemite	Valleys, Vistas, and Visions: Discover Yosemite: 30 girls participated in a 15 day outdoor learning experience "Wider Opportunity" focusing on natural resource management, environmental impact issues, and outdoor career opportunities. Partner agencies made women role models available to lead instructional workshops and discuss natural resource career exploration. They also provided logistical support and funding for the project. Girls became certified as Leave No Trace trainers, and facilitated an "Experience Yosemite!" service project / education event for 100 younger girl scouts. Journals from the trip reflect the valuable environmental knowledge learned and are available on a web site: <a href="http://wildlink.wilderness.net/newsdirectory/schoolyear0304/sept03.htm">http://wildlink.wilderness.net/newsdirectory/schoolyear0304/sept03.htm</a> .	U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Yosemite National Park, Bureau of Land Management	Sierra Nevada Wilderness Education Project, Leave No Trace, Yosemite Mountaineer School, California Horsepackers Association, Yosemite Concession Services	156

3	CT	Girl Scouts, Connecticut Trails Council, Inc.	Pond Exploration and the Wildlife Within	Pond Exploration and the Wildlife Within: "Pondering Ponds" is a year long water conservation program, created by older Girl Scouts that fosters an exploration of the pond ecosystem and an understanding of non-point pollution and its impact on the water resource. Older girls from urban and rural areas were trained by DEP personnel and local professors as Eco-Techs to help facilitate aquatic programs focusing on conservation, wildlife, and ecosystems for younger Girl Scouts. An event targeting older girls was held that introduced girls to the various environmental career options. A travel kit was developed so that girls in other areas could implement this program and a "Pondering Ponds" patch program was also created. Plans and funding are in place for expansion of the project in 2004.	Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection	Kellogg Environmental Center, Regional Water Authority, Southern Connecticut State University	1412
4	GA	Girl Scouts of Middle Georgia, Inc.	Observation Stations at Ocmulgee National Monument	Observation Stations at Ocmulgee National Monument: As a Girl Scout Gold Award project, four wayside stations were designed and installed at Ocmulgee National Monument. The benches and environmental interpretive plaques located along the trails provide a restful place to sit and observe and learn about wildlife and plant communities and water resources within the park. This project provided awareness of natural resources and Native American culture. Girl Scouts, schools and the community make up some of the 130,000 visitors to this park annually.	National Park Service - Ocmulgee National Monument, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Muskogee Nation - Division of Tribal Affairs	Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation Foundation, Woodmen of the World Insurance Society, Pilot Club of Jones County, Lowe's Home Improvement, General Steel, Inc.	100
5	IL	Shemamo Girl Scout Council of Illinois	Make Daffodil Valley Bloom Again	Make Daffodil Valley Bloom Again: As part of a four year project, girls from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds helped restore Daffodil Valley prairie and wetland to a natural and native habitat for Illinois wildlife, particularly birds of prey. Through numerous outings, girls removed non-native vegetation and reseeded the land with native plants. An online diary of the habitat restoration is available at <a href="http://www.illinoisraptorcenter.org/diarydirectory.html">www.illinoisraptorcenter.org/diarydirectory.html</a>	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	Illinois Raptor Center, Illinois Native Plant Society, Illinois Power Company, The Lumpkin Family Foundation	238

6	IN	Girl Scouts of Singing Sands Council, Inc.	Butterfly Garden	Butterfly Garden: A Cadette Girl Scout troop created a butterfly garden on school property. This garden was designed to provide habitat for butterflies including endangered species native to Michigan. It also serves as a hands-on research station for the school's science department who is currently working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to make it an official butterfly counting facility. Girls improved their problem solving skills, learned how to develop and manage a budget, developed a stronger work ethic and earned their Silver Award.	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Bridgman School System	12
7	LA	Girl Scouts-Audubon Council, Inc.	Wild about Wildlife	Wild About Wildlife: As part of an environmental education plan offered to expose physically challenged girls to science and activities at a council residential camp, an accessible cement walkway for an environmental interpretive trail, and handicapped parking area were established. Cement platforms were created and supplies ordered to develop the Weather Monitoring & Soil Science Station and Water Quality Monitoring & Aquatic Insect Investigation Station for hands-on science activities. Future plans include the development of more learning stations for residential camp programs and an interactive listening cassette tape to guide groups through the activities.	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries - Natural Heritage Program	Downtown Kiwanis Club	7128
8	ME	Girl Scouts of Kennebec Council	Discover Maine Wildlife	Discover Maine Wildlife: Girl Scouts ages 11-17 and leaders were trained in Project Wild sponsored by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. A Girl Scout Day at the Maine Wildlife Park provided girls with an increased knowledge of Maine's wildlife and plant, animal and water relationships and earned the Wildlife Badge. Older girls volunteered as tour guides for younger girl scouts at the Maine Wildlife Park and shared their knowledge learned from the project.	Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	Boothbay Region Land Trust	62

9	MI	Girl Scouts of Michigan Trails	Karner Blue Butterfly	Karner Blue Butterfly: As a Gold Award project, a county-wide educational campaign was launched to teach the public about the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly ( <i>Lycaeides melissa samuelis</i> Nabokov) and help protect and repopulate the species through habitat restoration efforts. Girls Scouts and the community planted eight pounds of wild lupine ( <i>Lupinus perennis</i> ) seed in two nature areas on Earth Day 2003. The project was shared with the community and council through presentations. Official butterfly population surveys are underway to determine the impact these plantings have had on the species.	Ottawa County Parks Department		182
10	MI	Girl Scouts of the Huron Valley Council	Eco-Paddlers	Eco-Paddlers: Girls ages 11-14 and their families learned basic canoe skills, studied the plants and animals of the Huron River ecosystem, and learned the impact of pollution on this ecosystem. Participants removed several truck-fulls of litter and debris from the banks and water while improving their naturalist and canoeing skills and earning the Project Planet Patch. Results from this project are being used to design additional environmental programming for teen age girls and their families as well as being integrated with the newest council environmental initiative called "Second Nature."	Huron-Clinton Metroparks		46
11	MN	Girl Scout Council of Greater Minneapolis	Flower Power! More Trees Please! And Earth Care Day	Flower Power! More Trees Please! and Earth Care Day: During 3 conservation programs, girls developed a greater concern for the environment by participating in community service projects and being exposed to natural resource careers. Girls planted trees at Girl Scout Camp Elk River to serve as a natural border and protector of the floodplain around the camp. They also learned how to identify Buckthorn, an invasive plant species, and helped remove it from a local park in order to create more space for native trees and plants to grow. Girls also assisted the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in their annual flower, grass and tree seed collection.	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Three Rivers Park District	306

12	MN	Land of Lakes Girl Scout Council	Project WET, Project WILD, Project Learning Tree	Project WET, Project WILD, Project Learning Tree: Girls and adults were trained in environmental education programs related to wildlife, water and trees developed by the Department of Natural Resources. Girl and adult participants learned problem-solving and critical thinking skills that will help them make responsible decisions regarding water and environmental resource use. Adult participants agreed to provide at least 2 programs in their region for girls. Future council program events are planned.	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources		164
13	NC	Girl Scout Council of Coastal Carolina, Inc.	Environmental Education Partnership with Cape Lookout National Seashore	Environmental Education Partnership with Cape Lookout National Seashore: A kayaking exploration project was developed in collaboration with the Cape Lookout National Seashore. The goals were to increase visitor's environmental knowledge and decrease the harmful impact on the environment of the barrier islands. Participants learned about barrier island wildlife and ecology and were trained in kayaking skills and rescues. Those old enough became certified as Leave No Trace trainers. To this date, these trainers have taught around 350 Girl Scouts and leaders as well as 20 Boy Scout leaders kayaking skills and Leave No Trace ethics. A Leave No Trace Patch program was developed and is being implemented in 2004. Now having kayaking equipment on hand, future kayaking trips and council-wide LNT activities are planned so that girls from all socio-economic background will have the opportunity to participate. The long-term goal is to for girls to develop personal ethics and responsibility for the environment in which they live and to decrease the impact humans have on wilderness areas.	National Park Service - Cape Lookout National Seashore	Pamlico County 4-H Cooperative Extension Office, Craven County 4-H Cooperative Extension Office	205

14	NJ	Girl Scout Council of Bergen County	Linking Girls to the Land	Project Learning Tree: Girl Scout volunteers and staff were trained by USFS personnel to facilitate the Project Learning Tree (PLT) curriculum on topics ranging from forests, wildlife, and water, to community planning, waste management and energy. Seven different environmental workshops were created equipped with "packaged-to-go" backpacks with educational supplies. 282 girls participated in hands-on workshops during summer camp. Girls and adults increased their appreciation of environmental issues, strengthened their critical thinking, team building and problem solving skills, explored possible wildlife and environmental science careers, and increased their self esteem. Girls also learned about the U.S. Forest Service founding, as conceived and implemented by Gilford Pinchot.	U.S. Forest Service - Grey Towers National Historic Landmark	Pinochet Institute for Conservation Grey Towers Fund	304
15	NY	Girl Scouts of the Adirondack Council, Inc.	Beautiful Butterflies	Beautiful Butterflies: As part of an environmental and training program, girls (ages 5-17), adults and community members explored the concepts of resource conservation, habitat preservation and species management of native butterflies. Older girls were trained as Ecology Aides and/or Program Aides while adults were trained as Program Advisors and mentors. Older girls explored local flora and fauna, learned how to test soil and water, and did research to find out what plants and birds impact butterfly habitat. With this knowledge they designed and constructed a butterfly garden on camp property. They also created and facilitated summer programming for younger girls to learn about butterflies and their habitat and help maintain the garden. Two troops are serving as stewards of the garden and plan to create their own butterfly garden in their home town.	NRCS - Greater Adirondack Resource Conservation and Development	Wilton Wildlife Preserve, Albany Pine Brush Conservation Commission, Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District, Warren County Cornell Cooperative Extension, Up Yonda Farm Environmental Education Center	195

16	OH	Girl Scouts of Lake Erie Council	Women in the Wilderness - Developing Future Outdoor Leaders	Women in the Wilderness - Developing Future Outdoor Leaders: As an affiliate for the Wilderness Education Association, Girl Scouts of Lake Erie Council offers girls year round program opportunities in a variety of wilderness settings incorporating the WEA 18-point curriculum. Girls learn basic judgement and decision-making skills, leadership, minimum impact camping and travel techniques, environmental ethics, and other points using the WEA curriculum. These program opportunities offer additional learning in specific land and water skills such as backpacking, and paddlesport instruction. Girls who participate in these programs gain skills and knowledge necessary to work in the outdoor industry and outdoor leadership positions. A listing of these opportunities is available at <a href="http://www.gslec.org">www.gslec.org</a> or <a href="http://www.weainfo.org">www.weainfo.org</a> .	Natural Resource Conservation Service- Ohio Department of Natural Resources- Watercraft Division	Wilderness Education Association, Leave No Trace, Inc.	140
17	OK	Girl Scouts of Magic Empire Council, Inc.	Project Polly: Wild about Water	Project Polly: Wild About Water: In an effort to educate Girl Scouts about the impact of non-point source water pollution, girls participated in a week long camp learning about water and aquatic habitats. Engaging, hands-on activities helped girls creatively explore the science of water, its cultural context, and the complex issues surrounding its management and stewardship. Girls developed critical thinking skills and the ability to make informed decisions regarding water resource use. Girls ages 8-11 earned the Water Drop Patch and the Water Wonders Badge. The 2003 data collected was submitted to the OSU Cooperative Extension program and is available at <a href="http://dipin.kent.edu/index.htm">http://dipin.kent.edu/index.htm</a> .	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge, Natural Resources Conservation Service	Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Tulsa & Wagoner County Conservation Districts	43
18	RI	Girl Scouts of Rhode Island, Inc.	Outdoor Adventures	Outdoor Adventures: Through Project Wild, Project Wild Aquatic and Leave No Trace trainings and camping programs, girls and adults were taught responsible use and stewardship of the land, primitive camping and hiking skills, the importance of incorporating Leave No Trace skills and ethics in everyday life and shared their skills with others in their council. Girls explored environmental careers and completed the requirements for Girl Scout badges and interest project patches.	Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management - Division of Fish and Wildlife		213

19	SD	Girl Scouts of the Black Hills Council, Inc.	Tripping Lightly	Tripping Lightly!: Girl Scouts learned how to protect surface vegetation, organism communities, water bodies, aqua-environmental systems and how to leave natural features and cultural artifacts undisturbed. In the first component, girls ages 6-11 attended three Leave No Trace and outdoor skills trainings, culminating with a day hike in the Black Hills. The second component served girls ages 11-17 through four training sessions and a four-day backpacking trip in the Bighorn National Forest. In both components aquatic resource investigation, testing and research was an important focus. Girls also earned their Leave No Trace certification. Plans are in place to offer the program in the Summer of 2004.	U.S. forest Service - Mystic Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service Powder Ranger District, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Custer State Park	Wildlife Experiences, Inc.	135
20	TX	Girl Scouts-Five Star Council	Linking Girls to the Land	Linking Girls to the Land: Over 700 girls and adults participated in environmental and outdoor programs throughout the year including events, workshops, camps and outings. The goals were to foster personal responsibility, awareness, understanding and appreciation of nature and the environment through hands-on educational programs. Programs were tied to environmental Girl Scout badges, patches, interest projects and awards. The council also created their own Wildcat Bluff Nature Center patch program	National Park Service - Lake Merideth National Recreation Area, Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument	Wildcat Bluff Nature Center	736



21	WI	Girl Scouts of Badger Council, Inc.	Burn! Remove! Restore! Our Prairie and Marsh	<p>Burn! Remove! Restore! Our Prairie and Marsh: Girls and adults learned the benefits of woodland management by participating in hands on programs educating them about invasive plants and marshland restoration efforts on their camp property and by mapping out property landmarks. During a father/daughter day and a mother/daughter overnight at camp girls and parents helped clear the invasive buckthorn plant. Participants investigated the invasive and native grass species and helped restore the native marsh environment. By hiking the trails and recording landmarks at camp, NRCS helped a senior Girl Scout use Global Positioning technology to create an accurate color-coded map of Camp Oakwood Knoll to be used in land management plans and environmental programs. More clearing of invasive species and prescribed burning is proposed as part of a prairie management plan being developed.</p>	Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources		1007
22	WI	Girl Scouts of Black Hawk Council, Inc.	Bringing Back Savannah	<p>Bringing Back Savannah: Girls began the initial phase of a 20 year prairie restoration effort. Girls helped by clearing land and planting native prairie seed on camp property. It has increased the total acreage of a prairie corridor in Iowa county, WI as part of a joint venture with the USFWS and neighboring land owners. This large restoration will help provide much needed habitat for grassland birds and other wildlife to repopulate in the years to come. This process will be applied to the council's three other camp properties and the council service center, as well as serving as a model for other councils. Girls and adult volunteers increased their environmental awareness about ecosystem management, science careers and stewardship. Two Girl Scout staff were federally certified in fire safety and prescribed burning techniques. Girl Scouts who helped with this project are being recruited as volunteers for similar projects by other agencies.</p>	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Wisconsin Private Lands Office	Dane County Parks, The Nature Conservancy, The Prairie Enthusiasts	740

23	WI	Girl Scouts of Indian Waters Council, Inc.	Water Watchers	Water Watchers: Girl Scouts ages 8-17 were trained to monitor water quality of streams in their communities. Girls investigated water's oxygen, temperature, PH level, water clarity, depth and flow and animal diversity. Their data and results were put into the DNR's Water Action Volunteer statewide database and their project will be presented to the council and community at the Beaver Creek Field Research Symposium in the Spring of 2004. Water monitoring kits are also available to be signed out for use by troops and the community. Girls developed better awareness, appreciation and understanding of our water resources and the impact that humans have on plants animals in our aquatic ecosystems while earning the Water Watchers patch.	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Beaver Creek Reserve, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, University of Wisconsin Extension	169
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